

~~TOP SECRET DAUNT~~

Approved For Release 2000/08/23 : CIA-RDP82S00231A000100130014-5

Chief, Industrial Div.

5 November 1959

25X1A9a

Chief, Aircraft Branch, D/I

Comments on -- Comments on NIE 11-8-59, 14 October 1959

1. Page 1, paragraph 1 and 2.

The writer's discussion of bomber and missile production raises the following question:

"Are the Russians willing to forego production of both bombers and tested ICBM's, and rely almost entirely upon a Badger force for an extended period for deterrence, to await a possible future development in solid fuels?"

I/AR estimate is that the USSR would produce the tested ICBM at least for an interim period until something better was available, otherwise their strategic posture would be vulnerable for an extended period.

2. Reference to comment of paragraph 4 (page 6, line 1 of NIE). Agreed that change from "an adaptation" to "a direct copy" is the correct statement.

3. Reference to comment of paragraph 5a and b (Page 7, paragraph 9 of NIE). I/AR has never felt that the USSR lead times were especially short, therefore we suggest deletion of the NIE sentence --

"Their short lead times were indicative of a high priority effort".

I don't think this statement would necessarily be true even if their lead times were short. In the following sentence in the NIE, it is stated that:

"Moreover, the Bear entered -----, the Bison in a smaller plant which ----."

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Plant No. 23 is not smaller than Plant No. 18 -- in fact it is larger. In the last sentence of page 7, paragraph 9 of the NIE it is stated that:

"-- fluctuating production rates, and by at least three complete cessations --"

The "by at least three" statement should be changed to "by at least two". I/AR agrees that modifications were not frequent, however, production rates have fluctuated and there have been at least two cessations of production as follows:

The cessation of Bison production in 1958 was probably caused by construction of the BOUNDER prototype(s).

4. Reference to comment of paragraph 6 (page 8, paragraph 10 of NIE). I/AR agrees that the Bison program was not bungled but probably proceeded much slower than the Soviets expected, however, the slowness of the program may have come about because of a change of mind by the Soviets as to the overall value to Russia of a heavy bomber program. The statements in paragraph 29 (NIE) do not seem to I/AR to be in any way inconsistent with other portions of the paper. It seems only common sense that the USSR would maintain their current bomber force until other weapons are available.

- 2 -

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5. Reference to comment of paragraph 7 (page 16, paragraph 26, NIE). I/AR sees no reason to add the word "principal". It is evident that Soviet authorities do not intend to produce more Badger, Bear, Bison aircraft. "Minimal" seems to be an excellent word to describe Bison production, because if production goes lower it will be zero.

6. Paragraph 8. No comment. (I/AR agrees with Section III of NIE).

7. Comment 9 (page 24, paragraph 40 of NIE). No comment. Will 1/3 to 2/3 of SAC be airborne?

8. Comment 10 (page 34, paragraph 56 of NIE). No comment.

9. Comment 11 (page 35 paragraph 57 of NIE). Operating at about 1/3 of Plant No. 23 only. There are several other plants which could be made available for "capacity".

10. Balance of paper - No comments.

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Attachment

Bison vs US B-52 Development

- 3 -

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Attaches